



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

Friday 25th April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to the Summer term and we hope that you all had a lovely Easter and some time together as families.

As always we are excited by the learning and experiences that are coming up this term, and indeed we have already begun with trips, Church services and Easter experiences. I always look forward to spending time with our children on our residential trips and seeing of course our Year Six children get ready to pass the baton on as they prepare to leave their primary education.

Just a reminder that we ask you as families to support your children's learning at home not by onerous homework but by simple, daily practice of the children's literacy and numeracy skills, the details of which were in my letter before Easter. If you are at all unsure, please do ask as we are all here to help.

I wanted just to issue a plea that if you have any outstanding payments due to school you settle these as quickly as possible please. Your £8 may not seem like a large amount, but if everyone owed this then we would have a huge hole in our income. As you know from the news, school budgets are very much under pressure at the moment and we do not have any slush fund to cover non-payments. Our lovely Friends/PTFA groups usually subsidise such experiences to keep your contributions under £10, but they can only do that if people support their events or come forward to volunteer for those groups - we are hugely grateful to those who do. So once the final cost has been established, what this means is that we rely absolutely on yourselves as families to pay your contributions for trips or experiences, as there is no school budget for these. Clearly if a child is entitled to the Pupil Premium we keep a small amount to support with that, but this must be used to the pence for that child and that child only, and when it is gone it is gone. For every other child, if a parent does not pay, then that is money that we lose. This means that we have to stop providing something else in order to pay that gap. Should lots of people owe us money, then we may not be able to continue to offer so many trips and experiences. We believe passionately that these events are the things that primary children deserve, and should be kept going, but if as a Federation we lose money on each trip, then it may be that we cannot do this going forward. If we also are owed money for school dinners, wrap around care or nursery fees, you can see that this has to be paid for, which means we may have to look at the few areas we have control over, staffing being the main one. This could mean your child loses out directly, for example because a Teaching Assistant who retires is not replaced, as a result of non-payments of bills. Fortunately we are not in this situation, but it is a constant battle currently. So how can you help? Pay your contributions, and please do talk to us if there is a problem. We can help, but we need you to talk to us. Please do your small bit to make sure we can keep giving your children the super experiences that make school memorable, fun and enriched. I must say that the vast majority do indeed pay for which we thank you very much.

Can I also please remind Parents/Carers of Year Six children that it is really important to support them before their national SATS tests with good sleep, good breakfasts and good attendance during the run up and the actual week. Chatting to your children about what they are doing can also be beneficial. We always take the approach of encouraging them to do their best, letting them know that these are important tests to do their best in but nothing to be worried about and the children always say they are much less scary than they thought they were going to be!

As always, if there is anything you feel we need to know or anything you would like to offer to school in terms of hearing readers, offering expertise or supporting us in other ways, please do talk to us, we'd be delighted to hear from you. We do still need Governors, so please ask me about the role - it is honestly not too tough and I think enjoyable!

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Neary". The signature is written in black ink and has a horizontal line underneath it.

Mrs Anne Neary

Executive Headteacher
Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies
Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle C of E Primary Academy